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DELIVERED TO

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES,

ON THURSDAY JANUARY the 11th, 1781,

UPON THEIR REMOVAL

INTO THE APARTMENTS ASSIGNED TO THEM

IN SOMERSET HOUSE.

BY THE REV. DR. MILLES, *K*

DEAN OF EXETER, PRESIDENT.

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Jos: Banks

GENTLEMEN,

I Should think myself very deficient in Duty to our Royal Patron, and in my Respect to this learned Society, by whose Favor I have been so long continued in this Chair, did I presume to meet you in these Apartments without a public Testimony of Gratitude to our munificent Sovereign, and without expressing the warmest Congratulations to the Society, upon the additional Honor they receive by this public Sanction of their Establishment.

Such peculiar Marks of Royal Favor deserve a far more able Panegyrist; and though the quick and grateful Sensibility of the Society already seems to anticipate me in the tribute due to the Munificence

of our Prince, yet I flatter myself they will indulge me with their candid Attention, whilst I endeavour to do Justice to their Feelings, and to the Duty of this Chair, in which I have the Honor of being placed.

Gentlemen,—From the Accession of his present Majesty to the Throne of these Kingdoms, every Species of useful Learning and Knowledge has found Favor and the warmest Encouragement from our King.—The two learned Societies have felt the beneficial Influence of his Patronage;—the Academies of Science and the Schools of Art have shared in the Liberality of his Bounty.—The rapid Advance which has been made towards Perfection in the Arts;—the general Diffusion of useful Science, and the Application of it to the noblest Purposes, attest more forcibly than Words can express, what the Royal Munificence, directed with the happiest Judgement may accomplish within a short Period of Time.

Our

Our gracious Sovereign gave an early Pledge of his Confidence in the Sagacity and Talents of his People by founding an Academy, which is already become the Envy and Wonder of the Nations from whom we are supposed to have learned the Arts; and he seems earnestly to have hoped, that his People under the Royal Auspices might arrive at the same Eminence in Arts, which they had acquired in Arms, and which the Romans, even in the Augustan Age, according to the Opinion of their own Poet, were not deemed capable of attaining [*a*].—It is sufficient to observe, that the Productions of this Academy, so well founded and protected, have exceeded the most sanguine Expectations of their Patron and of the Public.

It is from the exquisite Workmanship of a Member of this Academy [*b*] that the Testimony of Gratitude, which under the Direction of this Society is

[*a*] Virgil. *Æneid*, Lib. VI. l. 847.

[*b*] Mr. Bacon.

most humbly dedicated to the King, derives an essential Value as expressive of the high Respect we entertain for our Royal Patron.

To another Member of the same Academy [c] the Nation is indebted for this magnificent and noble Structure; in which it is difficult to determine, whether we are most to admire, the Elegance of Design, the Correctness of Taste, or the judicious and happy Union of the Useful and Sublime in the Arrangement and Execution of the Whole.

The Royal and Antiquary Societies, which date their Establishment from an earlier Period of Time, have much to acknowledge for the continued Favor of our Gracious Monarch; each of them, as Opportunities were presented, having been honoured with his Protection and Encouragement for the Advancement of Learning, and the Perfection of every liberal Science.

[c] Sir William Chambers.

But in what Terms of Panegyric shall we do Justice to this great and truly royal Design of collecting under the same Roof those several Sources and Instruments of Knowledge, which, although they were before opened by his Bounty, and directed by his Hand to their several valuable Ends, wanted Something of that Energy which arises from a free and easy Communication of Discoveries in the various Productions of human Ingenuity, and of improved Knowledge?

“ Omnes Artes (according to Cicero) quæ ad
 “ Humanitatem pertinent, habent quoddam com-
 “ mune Vinculum, et quasi Cognatione quâdam inter
 “ se continentur [d].”

If any such Relation does subsist between the Sciences and Arts, our Gracious Sovereign, by improving this Hint, has given the fullest Effect to its Influence.

[d] Orat. pro Archiâ.

He

He has placed us within these Walls to communicate with Freedom, and to contribute with our respective Abilities to the Improvement of Literature, Science, and the Arts, which by their present happy and judicious Connection become mutually Handmaids to each other, always resident within the same Pale, and Rivals only in their Attempts to produce, with the greatest Expedition and Effect, Materials for perfecting the Intentions of their Royal Benefactor and Patron.

It is for us, Gentlemen, to consider in what particular Circumstances the Nature of our Establishment will permit us to be instrumental to this general System.

A striking Similarity of Studies in the Pursuit and Illustration of the various Subjects of Literature and Science, form so natural and close an Alliance between the two learned Societies, that it would perhaps appear impertinent to enlarge upon so obvious a Topic. But I may be allowed to express a Wish,
that

that this natural Alliance may be strengthened by the friendly Intercourse and Disposition towards each other, which have so honourably distinguished the Conduct of these learned Assemblies; and that Literature, whatever Garb it wears, may continue to find a sure and warm Patronage within these Walls.—The Relation which the Study of Antiquities bears to the Academy of Arts, although not so obvious, is no less certain; and must be universally acknowledged, when it is considered that the Study of Antiquities is unlimited in its Subject; and that History, Science, and Art may claim an equal Share in the Attention and Labour of the Antiquary.

In History, to ascertain particular Facts of remote Antiquity, to collect Materials of the Lives, Habits, and Reputation of various Artists and Men of Genius in successive Ages of past Time, will find its Merit with those, whose systematic Line of Study, and of **Practice in the Arts**, is founded upon, and supported by the Authority of Antiquity. But from the judi-
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cious Investigation of ancient Science and Art, a more general and useful Field of Knowledge is opened to the modern Artist. The most valuable Hints for the Direction of his Studies are to be collected from the [e] Works of Antiquaries ; and the Repositories of Arts have been enriched with a Variety of necessary Information from the same Source.

These, Gentlemen, are only some of the Advantages which result from the Study of Antiquities. But I will not trespass upon your Patience by entering on a larger Field of Discussion. The Observations I have presumed to trouble you with are such as arose obviously from the Circumstances of our Removal into the Place where we are now assembled.

And to make this Tribute acceptable to our Royal Patron, to whom with all Humility it is offered, I must entreat the Members of this Society, that they

[e] See in the Collections of Grævius and Gronovius several curious Essays upon Sculpture, Painting, &c. See also Junius de Picturâ Veterum.

will

will so far honour it with their Approbation, as to give a Sanction to the Hints conveyed in it, by a free Communication of the Result of their ingenious Researches and learned Labours: for by a Continuance of such Exertions alone, can we demonstrate to our Sovereign the Sincerity of our Gratitude, and our warmest Acknowledgments for the accumulated Favours He has bestowed upon this our Society.

F I N I S.

While the nation is in the midst of a great
struggle, and the time is passing so fast,
it is not only the duty of the people, but
the duty of the Government, to take
such measures as will secure the
unity and integrity of the Union,
and the preservation of the
rights of the people. It is the
policy of the Government to
maintain the Union, and to
preserve the rights of the people.

P I N I S



